

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 19, 2002**

Members Present: Dr. Frank Briglia, Ms. Mary Ellen Brock, Dr. Frank Cunningham, Dr. Anthony Greenberg, Sr, Dr. Mary Kamienski, Dr. Ernest Leva, Dr. Alfred Sacchetti, Mr. Daniel Sullivan

Members Absent: Mr. Jesus Cepero, Dr. Martin Diamond, Ms. Carolyn Ferolito, Dr. Thomas Whalen, Mr. Thomas Zarra

Department of Health & Senior Services Staff: Dr. John Brennan, Ms. Susan Way, Ms. Nancy Kelly-Goodstein, Ms. Bonnie Anderson, Mr. William Duffy

Guests: Ms. Margaret Bush

Dr. Leva called the meeting to order @10:00 am.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dr. Leva reported that the recommendations for physicians on-call response times was approved by the Health Care Administration Board.

Dr. Leva was not able to attend the EMS Council meeting in March.

OEMS REPORT

EMSC Conference

Ms. Kelly-Goodstein stated that physician Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits will be available thanks to Dr. Leva. Additionally, CMEs will be available for school nurses and for prehospital emergency medical providers. The brochures will be directly mailed to every attendee from the last two conferences as well as to the school nurses,

and all the basic and advanced life support agencies. Dr. Leva offered to secure the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) mailing list for the NJ Chapter.

NEWSLETTER

There has been no activity on the summer newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

The nominees for the school nurse and safety representative have been sent to the Commissioner's office. Ms. Kelly-Goodstein is working with the Association for Children in NJ for the parent representative. We have received two resumes from the Trauma Center Council, so upon receipt of the third resume, the Trauma Council representatives will go forward as well.

GRANTS

OEMS received notification that our partnership renewal was approved. We also have some carryover funds that we can continue to roll forward. We were not approved for the Targeted Issue grant, which was to fund the emergency department pediatric critical care registry. There were 32 applications for six grants. We were encouraged to re-apply in the fall.

A new Partnership grant application will be due this fall. We need to have measurable objectives and outcomes. The completed application must be to the commissioner on November 1, so please forward your suggestions as soon as possible.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

Ms. Susan Way announced that Commissioner Dr. Clifton Lacy has been confirmed. Ms. Mary B. Wachter is the new Chief of Staff. Dr. George DiFerdinando is still the Deputy Commissioner.

BIOTERRORISM GRANT

Ms. Way discussed the bioterrorism grant. Approximately, \$23-million from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will support public health and local state infrastructure. There is a \$4-million companion grant from HRSA for hospital preparedness. A great deal of emphasis was placed on education and preparedness of school nurses, local health and physician offices. The grant application deadlines are April 15th.

2002-2003 BUDGET

Ms. Way stated that we are preparing all of our budget issues and responses to present to the legislature. Each Department presents their proposed budget to the state Legislature. The members of the Legislature can then ask questions relating to the budget. Is there a chance of placing the pediatric registry into the budget? Will the Department be applying for other grants? Ms. Way has been trying to secure funding for both the pediatric and trauma registries. Ms. Way stated that both registries are in the budget again this year.

The Department has not received trauma registry data since 1999 from the trauma centers. Mr. Duffy stated that each trauma center has their own trauma registry, but they do not compile data.

Dr. Leva suggested that we submit the pediatric registry to the RWJ Foundation for a grant.

Dr. Brennan pointed out a change to the minutes from November 27 regarding a mistake in wording on page 3 in regards to Dr. Brennan running a course in decertification, it should be certification.

The minutes were approved with the change.

Dr. Sachetti then stated that there are plans for an Advanced Pediatric Life Support (APLS) course in Atlantic City in September. Dr. Sachetti was not sure if St. Barnabas or the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) would be organizing and running the course. Our Lady of Lourdes is interested in organizing a course as well. Ms. Kelly-Goodstein stated that if your organizations have courses that they want to advertise, there is a section on our website for upcoming events. If you give Ms. Kelly-Goodstein the information ahead of time, she will be glad to have it posted.

OLD BUSINESS

By-Laws

The changes are to add the new representatives to the Council, to amend the meetings from every other month to quarterly, to establish the fall meeting as the annual meeting for the purposes of election and to extend the terms of the chair and vice-chair from one year to two. These changes were discussed at our fall meeting.

Dr. Sachetti asked that for a future revision we look to adding a base station physician, to represent the EMS physicians.

Bylaw changes were approved.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL REGULATIONS

The proposed regulations were sent to the members before our last meeting. Ms. Way will check on the scheduled publication date of these regulations. Recommendations to the Department included:

1. Encouraging Children's hospitals to affiliate with NJ medical schools as opposed to an out-of-state medical school.
 - a. Transfer of patients to out of state tertiary care centers
 - b. Financial support of clinical services by medical schools
 - c. Existing affiliations with medical schools
2. Advertising restrictions to those hospitals designated by the Department as a Children's Hospital.
3. Board certified pediatric specialists for the clinical areas.

Ms. Kelly-Goodstein will draft a letter to the Department outlining our recommendations for these proposed regulations.

STANDING ORDERS AND RADIO FAILURE PROTOCOLS

Dr. Leva stated that there was one comment sent in a letter from an ICU regarding bradycardia and the use of an external cardiac pacer. The comment was to reinforce that bradycardia is uncommon in children and that underlying causes should be looked for and treated before the child is paced. The use of the pace make falls under Radio Failure, so in order to get to that point the advanced life support personnel would have to contact medical command. If they were unable to reach medical control, the patient would have received the maximum doses of all medications prior to being paced.

MICU Medical Directors reviewed the document, as did the general MICU community. Ms. Kelly-Goodstein stated that they made a few recommendations.

Where we state that patient care should never delay transport, they were concerned about the use of never and suggested that the patient should be transported as expeditiously as possible.

Under allergic reaction-anaphylaxis instead of the verbiage of "no change in the patient status" they suggested, "the patient remains hemodynamically unstable" as an alternative.

Burn management keeps the intravenous fluid as lactated ringers rather than a switch to normal saline. (Recently published American Burn Society (ABS) guidelines recommend lactated ringers as the intravenous fluid of choice).

Concern regarding the dextrose concentrations require the MICU's to carry (D-50, and a choice of D-25 or D-10). If we dilute D-25 to D12.5 would that be acceptable for the patient less than 30 days old, rather than having them carry the D-10?

The Croup protocol dosing on the epinephrine via nebulizer, the dose is 3 cc of a 1:1,000 solution (3mg).

NEW BUSINESS

Patient Transport

Dr. Briglia brought up the issue of emergency transport of the special healthcare needs patient to the closest hospital or the specialties center familiar with the patient. These patients may benefit from pre-planning with local EMS prior to the call for help. This is a complex issue:

- Is the patient stable enough to have a paid ambulance service transport to the tertiary care center
- If 9-1-1 is called for the child, are they too sick for a longer transport past the closest hospital to the tertiary care center.
- Is it reasonable to remove a 9-1-1 ambulance from service to transport a patient to a distant hospital?
- Issues of managed care and what hospitals insurance companies will pay for.

These issues are similar to those faced by trauma centers. Perhaps this topic could be presented at the 2003 EMSC Conference.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Ms. Kelly-Goodstein reported that the Department of Education (DOE) is in the process of revising their core curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12. The proposed curriculum, which has not made it to the regulations yet, suggests the need to require first aid, CPR, AED and injury prevention training for all of the grades. A letter of support was signed by Dr. Leva and forwarded to DOE endorsing this topic. A similar letter was secured from the EMS Council. There are two remaining open focus group meetings that the DOE is conducting. (Tonight at Rutgers in New Brunswick and next week at the County College in Morris.) These are focus groups to discuss all of the recommended curriculum changes. Dr. Kamienski asked who would be responsible to teach this material? Mr. Duffy commended that the requirements are graduated throughout the curriculum.

Ms. Kelly-Goodstein suggested that this initiative may be something for us to include in the upcoming Grant.

SEATBELT AND SAFETY SEATS

AAP and AAA have come out with helpful hints for the new seatbelt regulations. Additional information about booster seats is on both AAP and AAA websites.

2002 EMS AWARDS

Ms. Way stated that the nominations for the EMS awards have been extended to March 30th. Please find the time to submit your nominations. (As of today, there are no nominations for the EMS Youth Star Award.)

Monday, May 20th is the EMS Awards Dinner at the same facility as the EMSC Conference.

The next EMSC Advisory Council meeting is immediately following the EMSC Conference.

Dr. Greenberg inquired as to when NJEC 6a16-2-3B became law. The first act of the 2nd paragraph-Ms. Way answered it became law within the last year.

Ms. Kelly-Goodstein will send a thank you note to Ron Czajkowski for use of the building for our meetings.

Mr. Sullivan wanted to discuss the recent cancellations of meetings; he would like everyone to make an effort to be at the scheduled meetings. Dr. Kamienski echoed Mr. Sullivan's remarks. Dr. Leva requested the meeting attendance for the last three years. He will forward it to each member with a copy to his or her organization requesting a review of attendance.

Dr. Leva requested we create a sub-committee to update the grant application. Ms. Kelly-Goodstein commented that from year-to-year the federal grant guidelines change. Dr. Leva will discuss the project with the RWJ Foundation. Dr. Sachetti suggested any possible funding sources be sent to Ms. Kelly-Goodstein.

(Reminder: If the DHSS is sending out the grant application, the final package must be to the Commissioner's Office 30 days prior to the deadline).

Meeting Adjourned